



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
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August 14, 2019

Division of Administrative Law
1020 Florida Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802
VIA SHAREPOINT


Re: In the Matter of Ron Bourgeois
Agency Tracking No. 2018-757A

Dear LaKeisha:

Please see the attached *Charges* on behalf of the Louisiana Board of Ethics to be filed in the referenced matter.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS


Tracy M. Barker
Deputy General Counsel

Attachment

cc: Ron Bourgeois (Certified mail #70180360000076691420)

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW**

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

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DOCKET NO.

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IN THE MATTER OF

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RON BOURGEOIS

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AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2018-757A

CHARGES

The Louisiana Board of Ethics voted on August 13, 2019 to and does hereby file the following charge:

Facts

1.

On December 4, 2007, the Council for the City of Thibodaux created the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department under Ordinance No. 2365.

2.

Ron Bourgeois was appointed by the Thibodaux City Council to the position of Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department Board Member on February 18, 2014, February 19, 2015, May 3, 2016, February 21, 2017, February 6, 2018 and February 19, 2019. Mr. Bourgeois currently serves as a Board Member of the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department and served as a Board Member of the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department at all pertinent times herein.

3.

REECO Rental and Supply, Inc. is a Thibodaux based business that rents tools and construction equipment; provides repairs and services to small engines; and, sells tools, equipment and hardware.

4.

REECO Rental and Supply, Inc. sells items and rents equipment to the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department on an as needed basis.

5.

Ron Bourgeois owns a 20% interest in REECO Rental and Supply, Inc. and serves as the President of REECO Rental and Supply, Inc. and has at all times pertinent herein.

6.

Ron Bourgeois earned \$114,389.44 in 2014, \$112,038.54 in 2015, \$121,750.01 in 2016, \$117,902.88 in 2017, and \$128,093.19 in 2018 from REECO Rental and Supply, Inc. for services rendered to REECO Rental and Supply, Inc.

7.

The following is a list of invoices REECO Rental and Supply, Inc. sent to the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department for payment beginning on September 12, 2014 through July 31, 2018 for a total amount of \$39,534.00.

| Invoice | Invoice Date | Invoice Amount |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 332118 | September 12, 2014 | \$19.04 |
| 333330 | October 10, 2014 | \$19.04 |
| 333423 | October 13, 2014 | \$11.16 |
| 334623 | November 7, 2014 | \$19.04 |
| 335405 | November 30, 2014 | \$27.92 |
| 335750 | December 5, 2014 | \$9.00 |
| 335726 | December 5, 2014 | \$19.04 |
| 336817 | January 5, 2015 | \$19.04 |
| 337867 | January 30, 2015 | \$19.04 |
| 338224 | February 7, 2015 | \$126.73 |
| 339006 | February 27, 2015 | \$19.04 |
| 339232 | March 11, 2015 | \$6.02 |

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|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| 340212 | March 27, 2015 | \$19.04 |
| 341130 | April 16, 2015 | \$22.25 |
| 341453 | April 25, 2015 | \$27.60 |
| 341419 | May 6, 2015 | \$6056.89 |
| 342859 | May 22, 2015 | \$9.00 |
| 342553 | May 29, 2015 | \$112.93 |
| 343849 | June 12, 2015 | \$19.22 |
| 346348 | August 1, 2015 | \$64.35 |
| 346447 | August 4, 2015 | \$70.95 |
| 346977 | August 14, 2015 | \$20.54 |
| 347313 | August 21, 2015 | \$39.97 |
| 347167 | August 25, 2015 | \$33.88 |
| 347746 | August 31, 2015 | \$65.14 |
| 349207 | September 30, 2015 | \$22.30 |

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|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| 350703 | October 30, 2015 | \$431.26 |
| 351798 | November 23, 2015 | \$32.64 |
| 352695 | December 15, 2015 | \$52.65 |
| 352823 | December 17, 2015 | \$48.37 |
| 353272 | December 31, 2015 | \$6.25 |
| 353589 | January 9, 2016 | \$76.09 |
| 353710 | January 12, 2016 | \$134.13 |
| 354883 | February 10, 2016 | \$22.88 |
| 354529 | February 26, 2016 | \$80.61 |
| 355738 | February 29, 2016 | \$30.07 |
| 356038 | March 4, 2016 | \$317.91 |
| 355918 | March 8, 2016 | \$414.29 |
| 357017 | March 28, 2016 | \$185.81 |
| 357541 | April 6, 2016 | \$870.47 |
| 358243 | April 22, 2016 | \$60.40 |
| 358229 | April 30, 2016 | \$7525.93 |
| 361973 | July 13, 2016 | \$10.59 |
| 363142 | August 9, 2016 | \$318.39 |
| 363559 | August 19, 2016 | -\$93.04 |
| 363793 | August 24, 2016 | \$17.40 |
| 363845 | August 25, 2016 | \$2.77 |
| 364037 | August 30, 2016 | \$18.24 |
| 364709 | September 15, 2016 | \$10.78 |
| 364919 | September 22, 2016 | \$10.59 |
| 367421 | November 17, 2016 | \$21.23 |
| 367414 | November 30, 2016 | \$20.75 |
| 368168 | December 7, 2016 | \$960.00 |
| 368572 | December 17, 2016 | \$45.00 |
| 368582 | December 27, 2016 | \$122.44 |
| 368945 | December 28, 2016 | \$11.43 |
| 368967 | December 29, 2016 | \$45.00 |
| 368862 | January 5, 2017 | \$36.82 |
| 369392 | January 11, 2017 | \$31.17 |
| 370587 | February 10, 2017 | \$18.90 |
| 370783 | February 15, 2017 | \$126.30 |
| 370648 | February 16, 2017 | \$71.28 |
| 370862 | February 28, 2017 | \$2208.50 |
| 371597 | March 6, 2017 | \$60.04 |
| 371857 | March 10, 2017 | \$103.66 |
| 372045 | March 15, 2017 | \$53.26 |
| 372151 | March 17, 2017 | \$523.22 |

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|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| 372211 | March 18, 2017 | \$30.07 |
| 372693 | March 28, 2017 | \$18.74 |
| 372738 | March 29, 2017 | \$47.31 |
| 372774 | March 30, 2017 | \$247.53 |
| 373316 | April 10, 2017 | \$17.40 |
| 373793 | April 21, 2017 | \$18.84 |
| 373213 | April 28, 2017 | \$240.18 |
| 374159 | April 29, 2017 | \$135.43 |
| 374137 | May 3, 2017 | \$500.34 |
| 374144 | May 10, 2017 | \$6654.17 |
| 375071 | May 19, 2017 | \$27.56 |
| 375389 | May 26, 2017 | \$47.90 |
| 374268 | May 31, 2017 | \$764.52 |
| 375784 | June 6, 2017 | \$90.72 |
| 377800 | July 19, 2017 | \$44.47 |
| 378119 | July 25, 2017 | \$39.99 |
| 378605 | August 3, 2017 | \$2.58 |
| 378842 | August 8, 2017 | \$60.83 |
| 378907 | August 10, 2017 | \$117.53 |
| 378962 | August 11, 2017 | \$71.64 |
| 379667 | August 24, 2017 | \$63.71 |
| 379707 | August 25, 2017 | \$31.85 |
| 379022 | August 31, 2017 | \$18.18 |
| 380247 | September 8, 2017 | \$20.23 |
| 380393 | September 11, 2017 | \$195.78 |
| 380583 | September 14, 2017 | \$32.47 |
| 381096 | September 25, 2017 | \$148.43 |
| 381286 | September 28, 2017 | \$39.38 |
| 381412 | September 30, 2017 | \$20.78 |
| 381737 | October 6, 2017 | \$32.91 |
| 381407 | October 30, 2017 | \$253.24 |
| 385422 | January 10, 2018 | \$41.26 |
| 385641 | January 17, 2018 | \$10.32 |
| 386124 | January 30, 2018 | \$15.20 |
| 386245 | February 1, 2018 | \$11.15 |
| 387238 | February 27, 2018 | \$0.00 |
| 388158 | March 22, 2018 | \$63.07 |
| 387101 | March 28, 2018 | \$315.06 |
| 388800 | March 29, 2018 | \$33.35 |
| 389897 | April 23, 2018 | \$25.55 |
| 389250 | May 9, 2018 | \$5840.48 |

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|--------|---------------|----------|
| 389760 | May 11, 2018 | \$60.27 |
| 391367 | May 22, 2018 | \$26.63 |
| 392589 | June 15, 2018 | \$180.02 |
| 392761 | June 20, 2018 | \$33.32 |

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|--------|---------------|----------|
| 393633 | July 10, 2018 | \$331.00 |
| 394179 | July 25, 2018 | \$99.88 |
| 394586 | July 31, 2018 | \$78.12 |

8.

The following is a list of payments for rentals, repairs, and hardware from the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department to REECO Rental and Supply, Inc. from August 18, 2014 through August 15, 2018 for a total amount of \$44,089.17.

| Check # | Transaction Date | Check Amount |
|---------|--------------------|--------------|
| 6399 | August 18, 2014 | \$25.49 |
| 6415 | September 17, 2014 | \$25.49 |
| 4079 | September 17, 2014 | \$63.69 |
| 6427 | October 13, 2014 | \$25.49 |
| 6440 | November 19, 2014 | \$41.41 |
| 6454 | December 17, 2014 | \$25.49 |
| 4112 | December 17, 2014 | \$38.72 |
| 6474 | January 15, 2015 | \$25.49 |
| 4120 | January 15, 2015 | \$14.86 |
| 6491 | February 18, 2015 | \$50.98 |
| 6511 | March 18, 2015 | \$227.27 |
| 6528 | April 16, 2015 | \$56.90 |
| 6553 | May 19, 2015 | \$7,164.30 |
| 4168 | June 17, 2015 | \$185.95 |
| 6592 | July 15, 2015 | \$13.77 |
| 4179 | July 15, 2015 | \$14.88 |
| 6620 | September 16, 2015 | \$516.05 |
| 6638 | October 13, 2015 | \$126.57 |
| 6653 | November 9, 2015 | \$560.26 |
| 4220 | December 16, 2015 | \$47.87 |
| 4229 | January 19, 2016 | \$149.39 |
| 6700 | February 16, 2016 | \$399.55 |

| | | |
|------|--------------------|-------------|
| 6720 | March 16, 2016 | \$163.66 |
| 4244 | March 16, 2016 | \$74.47 |
| 6752 | April 18, 2016 | \$1,356.58 |
| 6779 | May 17, 2016 | \$10,473.96 |
| 6851 | August 16, 2016 | \$15.03 |
| 6868 | September 14, 2016 | \$396.23 |
| 6886 | October 18, 2016 | \$31.14 |
| 6918 | December 13, 2016 | \$71.75 |
| 6945 | January 18, 2017 | \$1,569.88 |
| 4321 | January 18, 2017 | \$201.91 |
| 4330 | February 15, 2017 | \$201.23 |
| 1016 | March 15, 2017 | \$312.68 |
| 1049 | April 18, 2017 | \$4,288.92 |
| 1014 | April 18, 2017 | \$549.86 |
| 1074 | May 17, 2017 | \$764.52 |
| 426 | May 15, 2017 | \$8,256.50 |
| 1101 | June 13, 2017 | \$710.57 |
| 1128 | July 17, 2017 | \$1,226.76 |
| 1145 | August 17, 2017 | \$144.82 |
| 1159 | September 19, 2017 | \$600.29 |
| 1202 | November 13, 2017 | \$530.35 |
| 1269 | February 9, 2018 | \$114.52 |
| 1288 | March 13, 2018 | \$16.11 |
| 1309 | April 17, 2018 | \$646.04 |
| 1341 | May 16, 2018 | \$53.71 |
| 1359 | June 19, 2018 | \$439.93 |

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|------|-----------------|----------|
| 1395 | July 23, 2018 | \$290.08 |
| 1413 | August 15, 2018 | \$355.14 |

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|------|-----------------|----------|
| 1127 | August 15, 2018 | \$432.66 |
|------|-----------------|----------|

9.

The following is a list of donated services, repairs, items or delivery charges from REECO Rental and Supply, Inc. that were not billed to the TVFD from December 10, 2014 through August 16, 2018 for a total amount of \$16,315.00.

| Invoice # | Invoice Date | Charge Not Billed | Delivery Charge Not Billed |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 335953 | December 10, 2014 | \$60.00 | |
| 335953 | December 10, 2014 | \$20.00 | |
| 335953 | December 10, 2014 | \$20.00 | |
| 339390 | March 6, 2015 | \$4,380.00 | \$90.00 |
| 342264 | May 11, 2015 | \$315.00 | \$90.00 |
| 342265 | May 11, 2015 | \$520.00 | |
| 342265 | May 11, 2015 | \$240.00 | |
| 342265 | May 11, 2015 | \$120.00 | |
| 342266 | 5/11/2015 | \$225.00 | |
| 342266 | May 11, 2015 | \$320.00 | |
| 342266 | May 11, 2015 | \$600.00 | \$90.00 |
| 342267 | May 11, 2015 | \$96.00 | |
| 358352 | April 25, 2016 | \$60.00 | |
| 358958 | May 9, 2016 | \$64.00 | |
| 359839 | May 27, 2016 | \$315.00 | \$90.00 |
| 359839 | May 27, 2016 | \$320.00 | |
| 359839 | May 27, 2016 | \$600.00 | |
| 364764 | September 17, 2016 | \$174.00 | \$90.00 |
| 364765 | September 17, 2016 | \$25.00 | |
| 364765 | September 17, 2016 | \$25.00 | \$90.00 |
| 373468 | April 13, 2017 | \$525.00 | \$90.00 |
| 373574 | April 18, 2017 | \$6.00 | |
| 373574 | April 18, 2017 | \$240.00 | |
| 374661 | May 10, 2017 | \$320.00 | \$90.00 |
| 374662 | May 10, 2017 | \$750.00 | \$90.00 |
| 374662 | May 10, 2017 | \$1,095.00 | \$90.00 |
| 374811 | May 15, 2017 | \$375.00 | \$90.00 |
| 378972 | August 11, 2017 | \$15.00 | |
| 378972 | August 11, 2017 | \$5.00 | |
| 387238 | February 27, 2018 | \$600.00 | \$90.00 |
| 387468 | March 2, 2018 | \$15.00 | |
| 387468 | March 2, 2018 | \$5.00 | |

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------|------------|---------|
| 389135 | April 6, 2018 | \$525.00 | \$90.00 |
| 391512 | May 24, 2018 | \$1,500.00 | \$90.00 |
| 392636 | June 18, 2018 | \$175.00 | |
| 395367 | August 16, 2018 | \$315.00 | \$90.00 |

10.

Ron Bourgeois is responsible for the day to day operations of REECO Rental and Supply, Inc.

Laws

11.

La. R.S. 42:1113B provides with respect to prohibited transactions:

B. No appointed member of any board or commission, member of his immediate family, or a legal entity in which he has a substantial economic interest, shall bid on or enter into or be in any way interested in any contract, subcontract, or other transaction which is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such appointed member.

La. R.S. 42:1111C(2)(d) provides with respect to payments from nonpublic sources:

C.(2) No public servant and no legal entity in which the public servant exercises control or owns an interest in excess of twenty-five percent, shall receive any thing of economic value for or in consideration of services rendered, or to be rendered, to or for any person during his public service unless such services are:

(d) Neither performed for nor compensated by any person from whom such public servant would be prohibited by R.S. 42:1115(A)(1) or (B) from receiving a gift.

La. R.S. 42:1115 provides with respect to gifts:

A. No public servant shall solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any thing of economic value as a gift or gratuity from any person or from any officer, director, agent, or employee of such person, if such public servant knows or reasonably should know that such person:

(1) Has or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationships with the public servant's agency.”

* * * *

B. No public employee shall solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any thing of economic value as a gift or gratuity from any person or from any officer, director, agent, or employee of such person, if such public servant knows or reasonably should know that such person:

(1) Conducts operations or activities which are regulated by the public employee's agency.

(2) Has substantial economic interests which may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the public employee's official duty.

La. R.S. 42:1153 provides with respect to penalties:

B. Upon finding that any public employee or other person has violated any provision of any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics..., the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may remove, suspend, or order a reduction in pay, or demotion of the public employee or other person, or impose a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

La. R.S. 42:1155 provides with respect to penalties:

A. If an investigation conducted pursuant to this Part reveals that any public servant or other person has violated any law within the jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics to his economic advantage, and after an adjudicatory hearing on the matter, the Ethics Adjudicatory Board may order the payment of penalties. Recovery may include, in addition to an amount equal to such economic advantage, penalties not to exceed one half of the amount of the economic advantage.

Conclusion

12.

Based on the foregoing facts, Ron Bourgeois, while serving as a member of the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department Board, violated La. R.S. 42:1113B by entering into and for being in any way interested in transactions under the supervision and jurisdiction of the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department involving the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department and REECO Rental and Supply, Inc. when Ron Bourgeois was providing compensated services to REECO Rental and Supply, Inc. as its President and the employee responsible for the day to day operations and by virtue of his 20% ownership interest in REECO Rental and Supply, Inc.

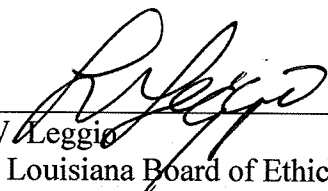
13.

Based on the foregoing facts, Ron Bourgeois, while serving as a member of the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department Board, violated La. R.S. 42:1111C(2)(d) by receiving a thing of economic value for services rendered to REECO Rental and Supply, Inc. at a time when REECO Rental and Supply, Inc. had a contractual, business, or other financial relationship with the Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department.

14.

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141C(3)(b)(iv), the Board designates Tracy M. Barker, LaToya Jordan and David Bordelon as the Board's trial attorneys in this matter.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Board of Ethics requests that the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (a) conduct a hearing on the foregoing charges; (b) determine that Ron Bourgeois has violated La. R.S. 42:1113B and La. R.S. 42:1111C(2)(d) with respect to the foregoing counts; and, (c) assess appropriate penalties in accordance with the recommendation of the Louisiana Board of Ethics to be submitted at the hearing.



Dr. Louis W. Leggio
Vice-Chair, Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Telephone: (225) 219-5600
Facsimile: (225) 381-7271

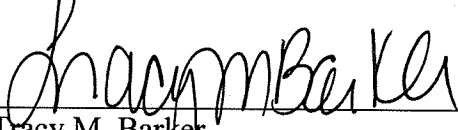
CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify that a copy of this document has been forwarded to the Respondent, Ron Bourgeois, by registered/certified mail in accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141E(1)(a), on this 14th day of August, 2019.

Mr. Ron Bourgeois
1762 Canal Blvd.
Thibodaux, Louisiana 70301

And

410 Hake Street
Thibodaux, Louisiana 70301



Tracy M. Barker
Trial Attorney